



Intelligence Information Case

IN 0128554
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CITE
DIST 14 DEC 77

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COUNTRY: USSR/CUBA/ETHIOPIA

DOI : LATE NOVEMBER THROUGH EARLY DECEMBER 1977

SUBJECT: INCREASED SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA BY THE USSR AND CUBA;
ARRIVAL BY AIR OF ADDITIONAL SOVIET AND CUBAN

MILITARY PERSONNEL AND MILITARY SUPPLIES

ACQ :

SOURCE :

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1. THE SOVIET AIRLIFT OF MEN AND MATERIAL TO ETHIOPIA THAT HAS BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE LATE NOVEMBER 1977 IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE VERY STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY SOVIET GENERAL V. I. P E T R O V WHO HAS HIMSELF REMAINED IN ETHIOPIA TO DIRECT THE MASSIVE SPEED-UP OF SOVIET ASSISTANCE. THE EARLIER ARRIVAL OF PETROV AND HIS SOVIET MILITARY STUDY GROUP WAS IN TURN A DIRECT RESULT OF THE PLEA FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE MADE BY PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) CHAIRMAN LT COL M E N G I S T U HAILE-MARIAM DURING

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JAN 1999

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[REDACTED]

HIS VISIT TO CUBA, THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE SOVIET UNION IN LATE OCTOBER. [REDACTED] COMMENT: SEE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] EARLIER REPORTING ON MENGISTU'S VISIT AND THE ARRIVAL AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SENIOR SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION.)

2. THE SOVIET AIRLIFT, OPERATING BOTH FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND ANGOLA AND WITHIN-ETHIOPIA, HAS AS ITS MAIN PURPOSE THE EARLY DELIVERY AND DISTRIBUTION OF WEAPONS, MILITARY VEHICLES, AMMUNITION ~~AND OTHER SUPPLIES THAT THE USSR HAD AGREED TO SELL~~ ETHIOPIA UNDER THE DECEMBER 1976 AND MAY 1977 SALES AGREEMENTS; HOWEVER, MORE THAN 400 ADDITIONAL CUBAN MILITARY ADVISOR/INSTRUCTOR PERSONNEL AND ABOUT 250 NEW SOVIET MILITARY ADVISOR PERSONNEL HAVE ALSO ARRIVED ON THE AIRLIFT SINCE THE END OF NOVEMBER. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ETHIOPIA IS NOW MORE THAN 1,000 PLUS ABOUT 150-200 MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND THERE ARE NOW SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 500 SOVIET MILITARY ADVISOR PERSONNEL IN COUNTRY.

[REDACTED] ADDITIONAL CUBANS AND SOVIETS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN THE NEXT MONTHS, RAISING THE TOTALS TO AS MANY AS 2,000 CUBANS AND 1,000 SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL.)

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3. BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF GENERAL PETROV AND THE FINDINGS OF HIS STUDY GROUP AND THOSE OF THE PMAC DEFENSE COMMITTEE THE PMAC CHAIRMAN HAS AGREED TO THE NEED FOR AN INCREASED CUBAN MILITARY ROLE IN ETHIOPIA. PLANNING THEREFORE IS NOW UNDERWAY FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF CUBAN TROOPS IN A COMBAT ROLE, OPERATING BOTH ARTILLERY,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ROCKET AND CONVENTIONAL AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS AND PILOTING
COMBAT AIRCRAFT. NO SUCH ROLE IS ENVISIONED FOR SOVIET PERSONNEL AT
THIS POINT. PRESENTLY, NEITHER CUBAN NOR SOVIET PERSONNEL
ARE FLYING COMBAT OPERATIONAL MISSIONS IN ETHIOPIA, ALTHOUGH
SOVIET INSTRUCTOR-PILOTS ARE FLYING TRAINING MISSIONS FROM
HARAR MEDA AIRBASE AT DEBRE ZEIT.

4. SEVENTEEN MIG-21 AIRCRAFT HAVE SO FAR ARRIVED AT BOLE
AIRFIELD IN ADDIS ABABA, WHERE THEY ARE NOW BEING ASSEMBLED. IT IS
LIKELY THAT CUBAN PILOTS WILL BEGIN FLYING SOME OF THESE
AIRCRAFT IN THE NEXT 2-3 WEEKS. [REDACTED] ONLY MIG-21
AIRCRAFT ARE CURRENTLY ARRIVING BY THE AIRLIFT FROM THE SOVIET
UNION SINCE ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY
TRAINED ON THE MIG-23'S TO JUSTIFY ADVANCED DELIVERY OF THIS
AIRCRAFT, THE FIRST OF WHICH WILL PROBABLY NOT ARRIVE BEFORE
JANUARY 1978.))

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5. [REDACTED] DISSEM: [REDACTED]

USUN, UNCINCEUR, COMIDEASTFOR, CINCUSNAVEUR.

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